



Hidden Valley Elementary School **SRTS Walk Audit/Site Assessment**

Wednesday, September 2, 2026



In attendance: Christina Panza (SRTS Director), Sarah Hadler (SRTS Program Manager), Alexander Ocegüera (City of Santa Rosa Active Transportation Planner), Mike VanMidde (City of Santa Rosa Associate Traffic Engineer); Brooke Brande (Providence Health Foundation); Michael Jablonski (Principal), S. Morse Privett (RSP Assistant); Olena Heron (Parent), Erica Lipanovic (Parent); Susanna Korth (Parent)

In addition to the audit, 42 parents responded to a pre-audit survey, shared by Hidden Valley, where they were able to share specific areas of concern. Their responses were reviewed and relevant concerns are incorporated into this report.

School Information:

Address	3435 Bonita Vista Dr, Santa Rosa, 95404
Morning Bell(s)	8:00am
Afternoon Bell(s)	1:05pm (TK/K); 2:22pm (1 st -6 th)
Grade levels	TK-6
Enrollment	525
School type	Traditional Public School
Student's proximity to school	2026-27 GIS Map Data pending
Participating School in Sonoma County SRTS program?	Yes
Student Travel Mode info	26-27 data pending

Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Programming (2025-26)	2nd Grade Pedestrian safety lessons 4th Grade Bicycle Basics Lessons, Bike Rodeo Multiple Walk/Roll events annually
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Route: Began in the school parking lot, in front of the MPR. Observed a portion of drop-off, then walked through campus to the intersection of Chanate Road and Hidden Valley Drive. After observing drop-off traffic for a period of time, crossed Chanate Road and headed south on Hidden Valley Drive to Meadow Glen Dr. Headed back to Chanate Road, crossed to the north side, and walked west on Chanate Road to Glen Echo Drive. Turned back to walk east on Chanate Road to Bonita Vista Lane, and headed north on Bonita Visa Lane to campus.

Pick up/Drop off: Morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up take place partially in the school parking lot, entering from the driveway on Bonita Vista Lane, and looping through the parking lot to exit from the same driveway or south out the driveway that fronts the school campus to exit onto Chanate Road. The school parking lot is primarily designated for staff & disabled parking, however parents do park there to drop off students, and often occupy staff spaces, particularly if arriving before students are able to enter campus.

Parents also park & walk or drop off their students along Bonita Vista Lane, on the north side of Chanate Rd. in front of the school, and on Hidden Valley Drive. Parents have also been observed blocking traffic to stop and drop off students on the south side of Chanate Rd.

CONCERNS &/or POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

Please note that all recommendations on the following pages are meant to capture potential solutions to issues or ideas raised during the walk audit. Each of these recommendations are subject to additional design, analysis, outreach, funding, prioritization, and approval by the City and/or Santa Rosa City School District prior to implementation.

- The speed, volume of traffic, inconsistent sidewalks, and visibility on Chanate Road is a primary concern for parents and a major barrier to active transportation.
- Although there are bike lanes on both sides of Chanate starting just east of Bonita Vista Lane to Belvedere Way, it is unprotected, and does not continue east up the hill on Chanate toward Montecito Ave. Parents expressed that the bike lane is “very narrow or missing” and they do not feel safe having kids ride in it.
- School staff and parent(s) living in the Lomita Heights neighborhood off of Terra Linda Drive shared that although the distance to school could be considered walkable, the sidewalk gap is a barrier. The sidewalk on the north side of Chanate ends east of Cobblestone Drive, therefore, pedestrians have to cross Chanate Rd. twice to get to school – once before the sidewalk ends (at the abandoned hospital intersection), and again when they arrive at the Hidden Valley/Chanate intersection. School staff also indicated a desire for a crosswalk across Chanate at Terra Linda Drive, explaining that walking along the south side of Chanate Road is more pleasant and has fewer side streets to cross than the north side.
- Audit and parent survey comments related to the three above concerns included:
 - *“Chanate too heavily trafficked by cars at school time, not safe, sharp turns on road limiting visibility for driver and pedestrians.”*

- *"There isn't a sidewalk the whole way on Chanate and they'd have to keep crossing the street; nor a protected bike lane on Chanate. Folks drive so fast and in the current bike lane as it is."*
- *"All of Chanate has low visibility around many turns, inconsistent side walking for pedestrians."*
- *"Chanate Rd is not walkable or rideable and speed limit is not enforced."*
- *"Chanate (especially in front of the school) is so dangerous. People drive 60 down the street and I have almost been hit many times."*
- *"Sharp turn on Chanate near Parker Hill Rd, cars drive too fast and there are portions of Chanate with side walk on only one side forcing kids to cross Chanate to complete the walk to school."*
- *"Speeding and running red lights is common."*
- *"People drive WAY to fast on Chanate. I am worried about the drivers speeding to work/school."*
- *"Our entire route to school, Mendocino Avenue and Chanate Road - I would NOT be happy with ANY child cycling along either of those busy roads, with or without an adult."*
- Several parents expressed that, unless you are familiar with the area, it's hard for drivers to tell a school is even there, which is reflected in the way drivers behave. Although school zone signs are present along Chanate Road on both approaches, the school zone sign to the east of Bonita Vista Lane is very close to the school and by the time drivers see it, they can't slow down enough, and parents would also like to see more or better positioned signage on Chanate Road west of Hidden Valley Drive, indicating that a school is upcoming and to slow down before the intersection of Hidden Valley Drive.
- Numerous parents expressed concern about traffic control, visibility, and overall safety at the intersection of Chanate Road and Hidden Valley Drive. This is an extremely busy intersection. At drop off, traffic backs up on Chanate in both directions, as well as on Hidden Valley Drive at the approach to Chanate. Many pedestrians cross at this location (dozens were observed on even a rainy morning). Both parents and the crossing guard shared that they had almost been hit while in the crosswalk, by drivers turning right onto Chanate from Hidden Valley Drive.
 - *"There is crossing guard who does a great job but there is high speed traffic coming down the hill that sometimes ignores the red light. There are also drivers turning right on red who sometimes don't check for pedestrians before turning."*
 - *"Crosswalk is unsafe. Cars run the light and kids barely escape getting hit on a daily basis. Crossing guard doesn't always show up."*
- Cars also back up on Chanate Road east of Hidden Valley Drive all the way past Bonita Vista Lane, blocking visibility for pedestrians walking across Bonita Vista on their way to/from school.
- Sidewalk gaps leading to/from the intersection of Chanate Road and Montecito Meadow Drive are a safety concern. Students who live east of Montecito Meadows (on or east of Jeremy Court) that attend Hidden Valley would need to cross Chanate at Montecito Meadows, where the sidewalk continues on the south side. Students who live on or west of Montecito Meadows Drive would need to cross Chanate to travel east, toward Maria Carillo High School (for example). A parent commented *"This is a great concern to me as it is heavy traffic around a bend and we do not walk to school with my children because of it. A crosswalk of some sort for walkers to cross to continue on a sidewalk path safely would be ideal."* Illustration:



- Parents also expressed concern about the speed of traffic on Hidden Valley Drive, and the lack of bicycle facilities. *One parent commented on the survey “Hidden Valley Drive has a bike path, however it is lined with cars and sharp blind curves making it unsafe for children to ride a bike on.”* Note: Hidden Valley Drive does not have a bike path, the striping is actually for the parking lane, however, the comment illustrates parent perception of safety for bicycling.
- A parent shared that numerous parents park and walk from the intersection of Hidden Valley Drive and Meadow Glen Drive, often close to corners, blocking visibility for children crossing at these locations.
- The intersection of Bonita Vista Lane & Bonnie Lane is frequently utilized by students and parents. It is high visibility with “School Crossing” legends, but sometimes parents park right up against the crosswalk and block visibility of students crossing the street.

Potential Solutions:

City of Santa Rosa

- Consider lowering speed limit on Chanate Road from 35 MPH to 30 MPH, and to lower the speed limit in the school zone from the current 25 MPH to 20 MPH.
- Review location of current school zone signage and consider relocating signs or adding other elements, such as painted “School Zone & School Xing” legends, to improve awareness and visibility of school zone.
- As recommended in the 2025 Santa Rosa Active Transportation Plan (ATP), as funding permits, implement improvements to the intersection of Hidden Valley Drive & Chanate Road to slow traffic, and improve safety and visibility for pedestrians and bicyclists. Potential improvements:
 - Protected Intersection which would include protected bike lanes leading up to the intersection on Chanate Road with curb extensions at the corners to help shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians.
 - High visibility (zebra stripe) crosswalks
 - Daylight (red curb) approaches to intersection
 - Consider signal changes at Chanate Road and Hidden Valley Drive to provide dedicated time for pedestrian crossings.
- Consider converting the Class II bike lane on the north side of Chanate Road between Hidden Valley Drive and Glen Echo Drive to a Protected Bike Lane, to help slow traffic and prioritize bicycle safety close to the school zone.
- Implement improvements to the intersection of Chanate Road and Parker Hill Road, as recommended in the ATP. *Note: a study was previously conducted to identify whether a*

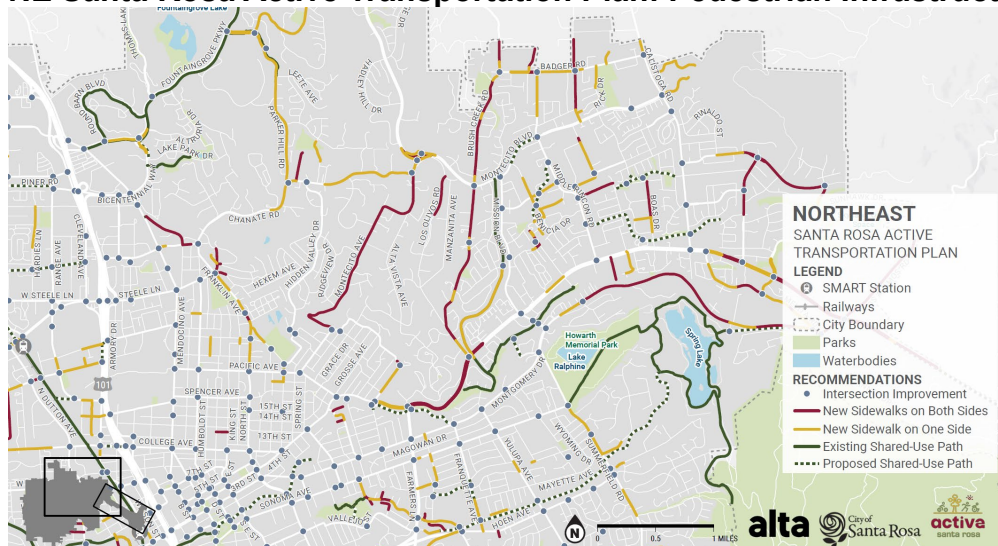
roundabout would be feasible at this location. The study indicated that the cost of a roundabout would be very high, due to the movement of numerous infrastructure items. However, a roundabout could be a possible long-term improvement should a funding source be identified. Alternative improvements (TBD) may be possible at this location, but requires further study.

- Consider installing a high visibility crosswalk with pedestrian activated warning lights (RRFB) on Chanate Road and Terra Linda Drive
- Consider establishing a “Keep Clear” zone on Chanate Road at Bonita Vista Lane, to support visibility of pedestrians crossing Bonita Vista when traffic is heavy.
- Close sidewalk gap on the north side of Chanate Road between Cobblestone Dr and Glen Echo Drive, as recommended in the ATP, and as development or funding permits.
- Close sidewalk gap(s) on both the north and south sides of Chanate Road between Bonita Vista Lane and Montecito Avenue, as recommended in the ATP.
- Convert Hidden Valley Drive to a Class 3 Bike Boulevard, to slow traffic and support safer bicycling, as recommended in the ATP.
 - Lower speed limit from 25 MPH to 20 MPH
 - Add speed cushions
- Daylight the intersection of Bonita Vista Lane & Bonnie Lane
- Consider intersection improvements, such as daylighting, to the intersection of Hidden Valley Drive and Meadow Glen Drive.

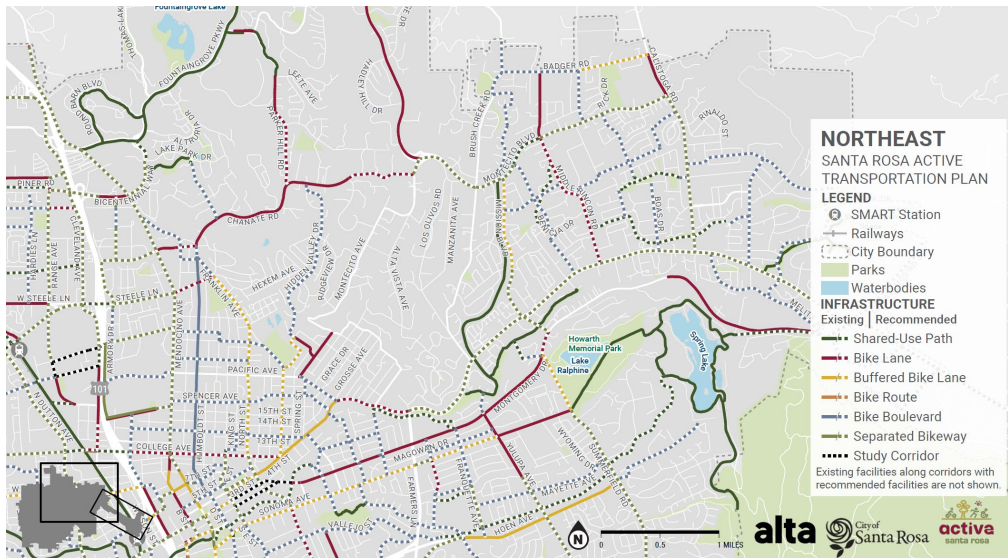
Additional Santa Rosa ATP recommendations that would benefit Active Transportation safety to/from Hidden Valley

- Construct sidewalk on one side of Parker Hill Rd
- Construct sidewalks on both sides of Glen Echo Drive.
- Construct sidewalks on both sides of Montecito Ave
- Bike lanes to continue on Chanate east of Hidden Valley Drive to Montecito Ave., and to continue a separated bikeway between Montecito Ave. and Mission Blvd.

NE Santa Rosa Active Transportation Plan: Pedestrian Infrastructure Recommendations



NE Santa Rosa Active Transportation Plan: Santa Rosa Bicycle Infrastructure Recommendations



School/District

Infrastructure Recommendation:

- Consider adding a painted crosswalk at the end of the driveway entry, before the parking lot, to enhance visibility that students may be crossing at that location.

Non-infrastructure Programming Recommendations:

- Continue enrolling in/participating in the County SRTS program to participate in ongoing Walk/Roll initiatives (including but not limited to International Walk & Roll to School Day and Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day), and to be eligible to receive SRTS services such as bicycle and/or pedestrian safety education programming, and more. Continue to maintain a “school team” consisting of site admin, staff (teacher and/or classified staff), and students who can assist with implementation and communications.
- Continue assisting the SRTS program in data and information to maintain understanding of travel behavior and barriers to travel at Hidden Valley Elementary.
 - Conduct student arrival/departure tallies in September (not on a Walk/Roll Day) to gather data on the number and percentage of students who walk, bike, scooter/skateboard, carpool, transit, yellow bus and travel in single-family vehicles in both the morning and afternoon on a typical day.
 - Distribute student surveys, as requested, to collect more comprehensive feedback on the barriers to walking & bicycling as well as preferred routes to school.
- Continue maintaining or establishing/promoting new Walking School Bus” (WSB) or Bike Train meet up spots, or even alternative “drop-off locations” without a supervised walking/biking group, and supporting students in facilitating promotion and community participation. Students, teacher(s), or even vetted community members may lead a group of students on the Walking School Bus or Bike Train in the morning on special event days, and also encourage students to walk or bicycle together on non-event days. Walking School Buses/Bike Trains can operate a couple times a year, once a month, or even once a week during certain months, depending on capacity.
 - Current Meet Up Location:** Hidden Valley Drive & Indian Rock Court (parent led)

- Educate the school community re: procedure for reporting hazards to the city, such as if timing on a crosswalk is not working properly, a light is out, there is excessive debris in the bike lane, etc.
 - Utilize the [My Santa Rosa App](#) to report any transportation-related hazard (not limited to sidewalks)

Blurb that can be posted in a school communication:

***Concerned about a Hazard on your Route to/from School?** MySantaRosa is a great tool to connect with City of Santa Rosa staff to report problems in the community and access City services. If there is something in the City limits that needs attention, simply submit a service request and even attach a photo. MySantaRosa routes the issue to the correct City staff, and a notification can be sent to the mobile app when the issue is resolved. Use the [online portal](#) or download the free mobile app ([IOS](#) or [Android](#)) to submit a request.*

- Alternatively, take a picture of the hazard and email saferoutes@bikesonoma.org with the specific location and description, and SRTS can report to the city on behalf of the school or parent.
- Pursue opportunities to provide free bicycle education, e-bicycle education, as well as adult “Smart Cycling” to parents who may not feel comfortable or knowledgeable about bicycling.
- Educate parents and neighbors about California’s Daylighting law. SRTS has created materials that schools can share re: the daylighting law here: [English Flyer](#) [Spanish Flyer](#) [English Social Media Infographic](#) [Spanish Social Media Infographic](#)
- Share information with students and parents about bus routes as well as students being able to ride the City Bus and SMART Train for free.
- Consider sharing the following SRTS tip-sheet(s) and videos to support safe walking, bicycling, drop-off, and parking & walking, including but not limited to:
 - Walking Safety Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Bike Safety Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Driver Awareness for Safe Arrival/Dismissal [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - E-Bicycles Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - E-Bicycle/E-Moto Safety Guide [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Park & Walk Video [English](#) [Spanish](#)
- Report incidents to Santa Rosa Police Department when they occur (i.e., if someone is hit in a crosswalk but not hurt, etc), as well as ongoing concerns, near misses, etc.

Santa Rosa Police Department:

- Monitor traffic in surrounding neighborhood to provide enforcement of illegal behaviors.
- Respond to school or city requests for targeted enforcement or speed trailer placement as indicated above
- Partner with SRTS to educate community members about California’s new daylighting law, E-Bicycle and E-Motorcycle regulations, and more.

Transit Information/Options:

n/a there is no transit service to Hidden Valley Elementary School

Safe Routes to School Program Information

- The SRTS program coordinates a Safe Routes to School Task Force to bring together representatives from schools/school districts (school administration, staff and/or parents), city planning/engineering, law enforcement, and SRTS program staff. The goal of the Task Force is to:
 - Seek input from Task Force members and the public, in order to identify barriers to active transportation (including Transit), opportunities for improvement and collaboration, and set priorities for future infrastructure projects within the city of Santa Rosa.
 - Provide a venue for sharing of program initiatives and projects in the city of Santa Rosa, as well as inter-agency collaboration.Santa Rosa Task Force meeting notices, agendas, and meeting notes & handouts can be found on our SRTS Task Force page [HERE](#).
- Enrollment for participation in the SRTS program takes place in April each year (deadline is April 30th). Schools must enroll each year to be eligible to receive visiting education services & ongoing technical support. Enrolled, comprehensive sites agree to:
 - Meet with SRTS program staff 3x per year to discuss/plan programming
 - Collect student travel tally data in September
 - Provide data for the SRTS program to enable creation of an annual SRTS “study map” showing where students live in relation to the school
 - Engage with/implement a minimum of 5 walk/roll encouragement initiatives per year.
 - Support scheduling & implementation of education programming.
- SRTS encouragement “Walk/Roll” initiatives and promotional materials are emailed to enrolled school contacts every month via our SRTS E-Newsletter, and may also be accessed at www.sonomasaferroutes.org. To request to receive our SRTS E-Newsletter directly, email christina@bikesonoma.org

Appendix: Walk Audit Pictures:



Students getting ready to cross at the intersection of Hidden Valley Drive & Chanate



Hidden Valley/Chanate intersection, westbound view



Hidden Valley/Chanate intersection, westbound view



Chanate Drive, eastbound toward Glen Echo, sidewalk gap



Bonita Vista Lane looking toward Bonnie Lane



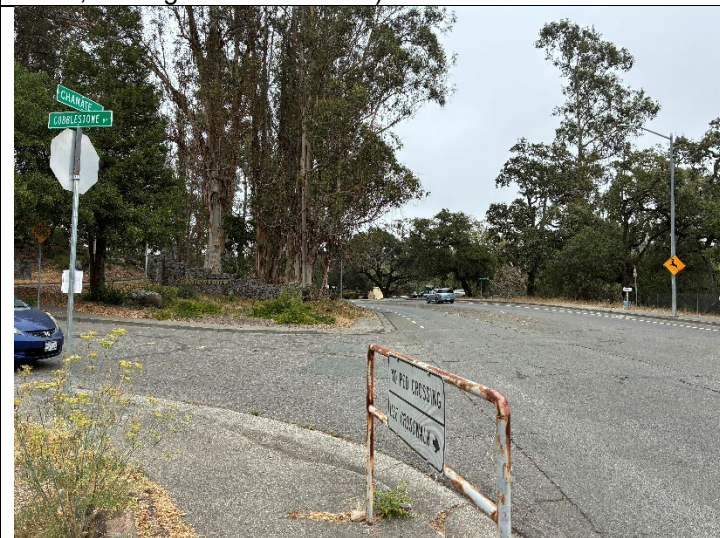
Closer view of intersection of Bonita Vista Lane & Bonnie Lane



Intersection of Terra Linda Drive & Chanate (from Terra Linda, looking toward Chanate)



Intersection of Terra Linda Drive & Chanate (from Chanate, heading east)



Chanate & Cobblestone (where the sidewalk ends on the north side of Chanate)



Blind corner on Chanate just west of Parker Hill Rd



Intersection of Chanate and Parker Hill Rd



Current location of eastbound school zone sign on Chanate (just east of Glen Echo Drive)



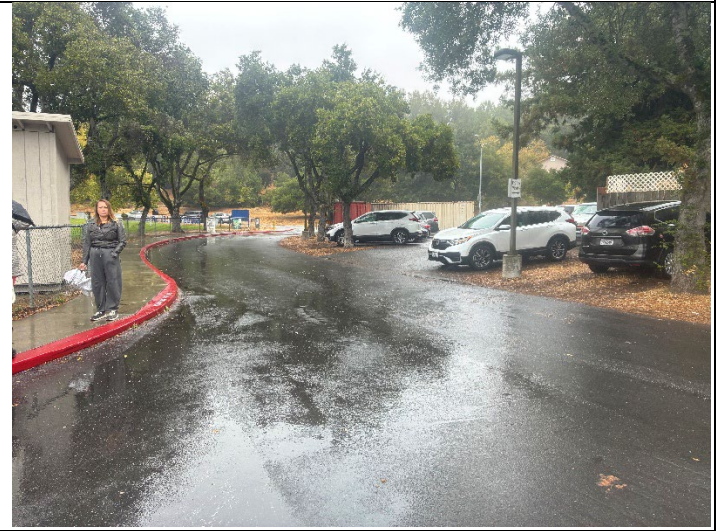
Intersection of Chanate & Meadow Glen, heading eastbound



Intersection of Chanate & Meadow Glen, heading westbound



Intersection of Bonita Vista & Chanate – possible “keep clear” on Chanate?)



School driveway – School district: consider painting a crosswalk across driveway to indicate path of travel for pedestrians walking from Bonnie Lane/Bonita Vista

Funding for FY 2025-26 Safe Routes to School Walk Audit/Site Assessments is provided in part by the California Department of Public Health’s Kids’ Plates Program.